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The Spectator

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Survey assesses high school attitudes toward gays/lesbians

by Sarah Karalunas '04
NEWS EDITOR

Things may be looking up for gay and lesbian students in the United States. According to a poll of 1,003 high school seniors conducted by Hamilton students and Zogby International, average 18-year-olds hold much more liberal views on gay and lesbian issues than their adult counterparts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF C&D

Hunter Kurtz '01 talks to a reporter during a press conference.

In the survey, formally released on Monday at a press conference in NYC by representatives from Hamilton and MTV News, 71 percent of students said that sexual relations between members of the same sex should be legal; only 54 percent of adults would agree.

The survey also showed that 63 percent of students would be comfortable with a gay, male math teacher and seven in ten said gay men should be allowed to serve as BoyScout leaders.

"We were surprised by how liberal these kids were," said Paul Jones '03, one of the students who designed and administered the poll. Jones, along with Kristen Schaefer '02 and Professor of Sociology Dennis Gilbert spoke at the press release.

"18-year-olds are a lot more open as compared to actual adults,"

*see **Poll**, page 7*

Summer Open House draws 504 to campus

by Rebecca Fabricant '03
NEWS WRITER

This week, Hamilton played host to Summer Open House, the first of three Open Houses planned to introduce prospective students to Hamilton College during the coming year.

Additional Open Houses are the Fal Open, House scheduled for November and Accepted Student Open House, which will be held in the spring. This year's Summer Open House is the largest prospective student Open House in the College's history; one hudred ninety-one students were present with an overall total of 504 people in attendance.

This week is an ideal time for an open house, since prospective students are able to visit before they return to the hustle and bustle of senior year of high school. Furthermore, since it is the end of the summer, most high schoolers have finished their summer jobs. Hamilton Admissions stresses that these open houses are not for interviews; instead, they provide an opportunity for the students to get a feel of the campus and community. Visitors are encouraged to meet and speak informally with various professors and Hamilton students.

Registration took place from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Faculty from every department were grouped by area so prospective Hamilton students and their families could have the opportunity to meet and talk with professors from the departments in which they were most interested.

The large crowd then packed into Wellin Hall for talks from President Tobin. and Dean Fuller.

A student/faculty panel addressed questions from members of the audiance. The panel consisted of two students and two faculty members. Associate Dean of Admissions Will Cardamone commented that Admissions tries to get students on the panel "who

*see **Open house**, page 7*

Cullen uses automobile to teach first-years about diversity

by Elizabeth Dolan '05
NEWS WRITER

How did the Wizard of Oz, magic, and cars help first-year students at Hamilton understand diversity? Dr. Maura J. Cullen, an educational consultant with an MA in counseling and psychological services and a doctorate in social justice, both enlightened and entertained the class of 2005 on Thursday, August 23 with her presentation titled "Toto, We're Not in Kansas Anymore, a seemingly detached title for a lecture that lacked a yellow brick road, a scarecrow, and ruby slippers.

Cullen's presentation was simple yet effective. Shecompared characteristics of the everyday automobile to stereotypes of people. Size, age, ability, gender, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation were all included in Cullen's extended metaphor. Cullen discussed each stereotype in detail, using personal anecdotes to illustrate each of the seven traits. Whether it was discrimination due to weight, handicap, race, sex, or sexual preference, Cullen addressed each topic with a blunt and realistic approach. Her insight into the stereotypes she discussed was informative, and her sense of humor both light and entertaining. "The spirit and enthusiasm Maura creates aides others in making the bridge between their heads and their hearts, changing the I can't to I can," said Janice Robinson of the University of British Columbia on Cullen's official website.

Why are diversity lessons included in the first-years' orientation experience? According to the Hamilton web page, only 16.8% of the class of 2004 is of a different ethnicity than our predominately white community, thus branding those of different races as the minority. "Hamilton is not as diverse as I am used to," Zach Kubin '05 said. "I find it fascinating to interact with all types of people, and it is quite possible that the lack of diversity may affect my college experience."

For other students, however, Hamilton provides a much more diverse setting than their perevious school communities. "In terms of diversity, I consider Hamilton to be more diverse (than my high school) but still predominately white, mid to upper class," said Emily Barber '05.

In these cases an orientation program in the subject of diversity is helpful. "Cullen's program is, in my opinion, extremely valuable to the first week experience since we attend a small, predomi-

*see **Automobile**, page 4*

RA on-call program revised

by Christopher LaRosa '03
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This fall while students are familiarizing themselves with a new set of faces in their dormitory one might stand out among the rest, that of their Residential Advisor. A revised Residential Life RA On-Call program aims to increase the visibility and accessibility of RAs through out dormitories.

When RAs returned to campus this summer for training they learned of a system requiring three RAs on call Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, each of whom would circulate through a third of the campus twice nightly.

Moot described the evolu-

*see **On-call**, page 4*

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER LAROSA '03

Dr. Paul Greengard '48 received an honorary degree from Hamilton College at this year's Convocation Ceremony.

Greengard '48 honored at Convocation ceremony

by Christopher LaRosa '03
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Community members filled Wellin Hall Sunday, Aug 26 for Hamilton's 190th convocation. The presentation of an honorary degree to Nobel Physiology or Medicine laureate Dr. Paul Greengard '48 highlighted this year's ceremony.

Following the traditional procession and call to order, Greengard recieved an honorary degree before delivering a humorous anecdotal speech.

"I knew from an early age I was going to Hamilton. On my 4th birthday I was told I would by my uncle and father," recalled Greengard.

Greengard's speech focused on the "practical value" of a liberal arts education. He conveyed his message through a humorous story about his time living in Britain and how his knowledge of British history acquired at Hamilton helped him to avoid fines, towing, and possible arrest over a questionably parked car in Piccadilly Circus.

Campus Chaplain Jeffery McArn enjoyed Greengard's presence at convocation. "To celebrate

*see **Convocation**, page 7*

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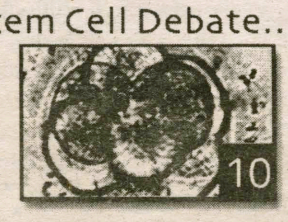

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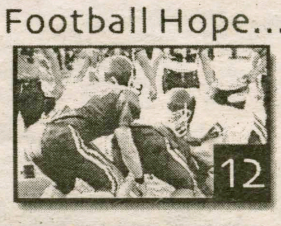

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First years go "beyond the superficial" in First Night

by Erin Hummel '05
NEWS WRITER

The day freshmen first arrive to college is a hectic, exciting, confusing, sad, happy, and, perhaps most of all, tiring day. Which is why some may have been a little surprised, and others a little annoyed, to learn that after a day of unpacking, Opening Ceremonies, group meetings, and difficult goodbyes, they could not call it an early night. They had to participate in a "First Night Experience" program.

As has been done with previous Hamilton classes on their first night, the freshmen were put into groups and taken to locations where they could have some privacy. They introduced themselves to one another and were led by Residential Advisors in discussing subjects such as their most significant and happy moments.

While each freshman's "First Night" basically followed the same format, the student's feelings about it varied. "I thought it was a great way to get to know our roommates," said Sarah Stewart '05.

Katie O'Gorman '05 said she felt "awkward" and "uncomfortable" discussing such personal subjects with strangers.

Greer Mahoney '05, who enjoyed the experience, still thought that some of the questions were "cheesy" and too much like "questions on a college application."

For some, Residential Advisors, who have been trained to facilitate these experiences, made the difference between a bad and a good experience. Most RAs called on their own "First Night Experience" to help them lead one this year. One RA, Maurice Machaane '03, recalled his experience as being good, but a little "timid" because it was led by a first time RA. He said his past experience as an R.A. and in leading "First Night Experiences" helped to give the members of his group a smoother opening to the beginning of the year then he experienced.

Another RA, Alicia Fucile '03, remembers her experience as "awkward" and "a little depressing." With her own group this year, she explained that she "tried to keep an open mind" and make sure everyone "got the most out of it." Fucile said her group's experience was "very, very good," and that everyone seemed comfortable sharing.

By participating in this event, the class of 2005 has followed in the footsteps of a 15-year-old tradition. Over the past decade and a half, the Counseling and Residential Life offices have combined their efforts to plan this event. The event is designed, according to Bob Kazin, director of counseling and psychological services, to help the students "break the ice" with their new roommates and talk about something "beyond the superficial."

The experience brought the freshmen together in a way they probably wouldn't have come together on their own. And though no one experienced the same first night, the memory of it, loved or hated, will remain with each student.

PHOTO BY BILL CHENEVERT '05

Mike O'Leary '04 (second from the left) led a group of first-years into the Adirondacks during the Adirondack Adventure pre-orientation program.

AA provides first-years with lots of fun, a few mishaps

by Chris Takacs '05
NEWS WRITER

One hundred and fourteen freshmen converged in front of Benedict Hall on August 13th to begin a one-week program to introduce the new students to the campus, to each other, and to the great outdoors.

The Adirondack Adventure program, organized by "Head Honcho" Andrew Jillings, seeks to prepare students for college in a fun and inventive way, promoting teamwork, leadership, respect for the environment, and determination. "The bottom line, however, is safety. There should be no loss or gain of life," Jillings said, repeating one of many memorable mottoes of the trip. "Beyond that, it is all about making friends and having fun."

Thirty percent of the class of 2005 decided to give up their last few days of summer vacation. They prepared for two days before splitting into 19 groups and driving to separate locations high in the Adirondack Mountains. From there, depending on the trip they chose, students hiked, canoed, kayaked, or mountain biked. For three and a half days, the groups, ranging in size from 6 to 14 people plus two student/alumni leaders, braved the outdoors. There, the participants worked together to accomplish the various, and often very difficult, tasks set before them. Many group leaders were amazed by how quickly the students bonded and how well they got along. "Everything went so well. There were a lot of different personalities, but nobody fought. Everyone just seemed to click," group leader Maggie Hanson '02 reports.

Though they spent a relatively short time in the wild, some minor problems did arise. There was a lack of food on some trips, while others had more than they could carry (or eat, for that matter). In the more accident-prone groups, first-aid kits had to be broken open, though no injuries beyond cuts, bruises, blisters, and a twisted ankle were sustained.

Unknown to most of the students participating, organization of transportation for the trip was extremely difficult, according to Jillings, as Hamilton has only three fifteen-person busses. The usual transport rental service went out of business during the summer, so the organizers and leaders were hard-pressed to find cars and vans, a problem that was solved literally on the last day before AA started.

As to whether or not this year's Adirondack Adventure was a success, "I think so. Only time can tell," says Jillings. The friendships that were made over the trip and the lessons that were learned are long lasting and have helped to shape many, if not all of the 114 student's futures in regard to Hamilton.

Jim Atkinson '05 remarks that the trip was, "Very worthwhile. I had the opportunity to meet some of my closest friends. It was an experience of a lifetime." It would be difficult to find an Adirondack Adventure participant who disagrees.

Big prize bingo is Frosh Fave

by Molly O'Sullivan '05
NEWS WRITER

"Feeling lucky?" These enticing words in their new student orientation booklet tempted members of the incoming class of 2005. Nearly 400 first-year students gathered in the Annex at Beinecke Student Activities Village to try their luck at "Big Prize Bingo" on Friday, August 24 at 9:30 p.m.

With Michael Jackson music blasting in the background, first-years competed for room furnishings, gift certificates to local restaurants, and various mystery prizes. Of the many prizes available, the most coveted included a DVD player, a refrigerator, a television, a stereo, and a futon.

Orientation leaders, clad in their "super" blue T-shirts, kept all the students entertained with animated dancing. Threats with plastic baseball bats were also made against potential cheaters. As OL Julian Scurzi '03, the night's official Bingo announcer exclaimed, "You're all winners!"

The night was not without its moments of suspense and controversy. The class of 2005 is one of the most intelligent groups to grace Hamilton's campus in 20 years. This fact notwithstanding, many first-years failed to understand the concept of fashioning a letter "T" out of their bingo numbers. During one particularly heated game, with a new TV up for grabs, student after student falsely presumed to have won because they misunderstood the proper formation of the letter "T" needed to win the contest.

Others had issues with forming a square out of their bingo numbers when competing for a stereo.

Conflict also arose whenever more then one student would win the same game of bingo. At one point there were upwards of nine disputed winners all claiming ownership of a new stereo system. To prevent chaos from ensuing, entertaining tiebreakers such as dance-offs, Hamilton trivia contests, and the old standby of "Rock, Paper, Scissors" were used to determine ultimate winners.

The intelligence of the class of 2005 was again put to the test later in the evening. A trivia contest was held to determine an absolute winner of what many considered the most desired of the night's prizes, a futon. All in attendance learned that, yes indeed, the statue located in front of the chapel is of Alexander Hamilton.

With Madonna music and Chex Mix galore, members of the class of 2005 enjoyed their evening of bingo as a lighthearted activity following an intense week of speakers and new experiences. Even those who came away with nothing but a few used cards and their continuing dreams of bingo glory had only positive feedback from their orientation week experience with "Big Prize Bingo."

"It was a lot of fun. I'd gladly do it again if a George Foreman grill was on the line," explained Carrie Kaufman '05.

Matriculation makes students feel like part of community

by Sarah Gould '05
NEWS WRITER

As tradition dictates, the incoming freshman class of Hamilton gathered on Friday, August 24 to participate in the annual matriculation ceremonies. Held at Kirkland Cottage, matriculation allows freshman to sign their names into the official college register, a long held ritual that signals a new student's entering the Hamilton community.

The building in which matriculation is held, Kirkland Cottage, is the oldest building on campus, making it an appropriate place to hold the annual tradition of signing the college register.

The Cottage was built in 1872 by Samuel Kirkland, the founder of the College, and contains within its walls a vast sense of history. "I waited in line for about a half hour, but when I stepped into the cottage, I knew that I was adding my name to a long list of successful Hamilton students and graduates. It meant more than just signing my name to a piece of paper," commented Gillian Alexander '05.

Awaiting each student in the Cottage was President Eugene M. Tobin, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty David Paris, and Dean of Admission Richard Fuller. As students entered the building, they were greeted by President Tobin, who spoke with each student individually. "I had a full conversation with President Tobin. There must have been at least a hundred people before me, but when President Tobin approached me and we started to talk, he was just as interested as if I had been the first person into the Cottage to sign my name. It made me realize why I came to a small school," said Stephan Finazzo '05.

Matriculation served as the culminating event of Orientation Week, a string of days devoted to welcoming freshmen and new students. Activities included lectures, group discussions, and meetings, all designed to enable a smooth transition into the academic and social life of college.

IVORY TOWERS

THE NEWS AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE LAND

Compiled by Will Fuhrman '04

Study purports bias against minorities in LSAT

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — White applicants to law schools directly benefit from the racially biased Law School Admission Test that disadvantages minorities, even among students who have the same grade point average at the same university, a new study released Tuesday said.

The report compared undergraduate students' GPAs to their LSAT scores and found that the test imposes an artificial barrier on students of color, said William Kidder, who put together the report for Testing for the Public, a Berkeley, Calif.-based educational research group.

Kidder took law school applicants from 15 top undergraduate schools from 1996-98, including Stanford, Harvard and Yale, the University of California-Berkeley and UCLA, and compared students with the same GPA, major and graduation date to their performance on the LSAT.

Kidder, for instance, would take a black applicant who graduated from Yale with a 3.55 GPA and match the student with all the white students from Yale who had GPAs between 3.45 to 3.65 and who graduated in the same year as the black student.

The study found that black students scored 9.2 points lower than whites on the test, and Latinos 6.8 points behind. For example, the LSAT average for black students from Yale was 158, while white students scored an average of 167.

Report says majority of college students in debt

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — College students with credit cards carry an average debt of $2,748, according to a report released last month by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

"We're pretty disgusted with the way these companies are preying on students," said Shannon Lumpkin, director of the University of New Mexico chapter of the Public Interest Research Group. "You can see it really badly the first week of school when these credit card solicitors will do anything to hook students. They've saturated the adult market and are now just targeting college kids."

PIRG state chapters released a report last year, that cited on the Nellie Mae Foundation survey and its own interviews with 460 college students within the first month of either the fall or spring semester of 2000-2001. It found that:

* One third of students received their cards through mail solicitation and one quarter from campus displays.

* Half of the students pay their balances in full, 36 percent sometimes do and 14 percent never do.

Report raises questions for Duke about shoe deal

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. — When top basketball recruit Amare Stoudemire's mother accepted money from Nike consultant George Raveling, she might have jeopardized her son's NCAA eligibility — but she also sparked questions about the role of big-time shoe companies in college athletics.

Those same questions surfaced in July when the Knight Foundation's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics released a report that argued that the commercialization hurt higher education. Now, administrators, students and fans at Duke University are wondering if the Nike swoosh is mightier than the Duke shield.

Men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski has had a private contract with Nike since 1993 after switching from Adidas. Nike provides the team with shoes, uniforms and practice gear.

"Yes, we wear the Nike swoosh on our uniforms," Krzyzewski said earlier this year. "And a lot's for sale here, but with stipulations. It's bad if corporations are running the ranch here. But they're not. A university is also a business, but it should not sell values."

WORLD NEWS

Compiled by Will Fuhrman '04

Racism conference rife with issues

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — On the eve of a U.N. conference against racism, angry Arab activists broke up a news conference by Jewish groups, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson warned that the Middle East conflict should not overshadow other key issues.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, meanwhile, was pelted by complaints by leaders of ethnic minorities worried their causes will be ignored at the gathering that begins Friday.

During a question-and-answer session at a civil rights forum, he was challenged to defend the conference's draft final document by representatives of Latinos, indigenous people, Caribbean citizens and Dalits, known as the untouchable caste in India.

All felt their cause was not being emphasized enough, if at all.

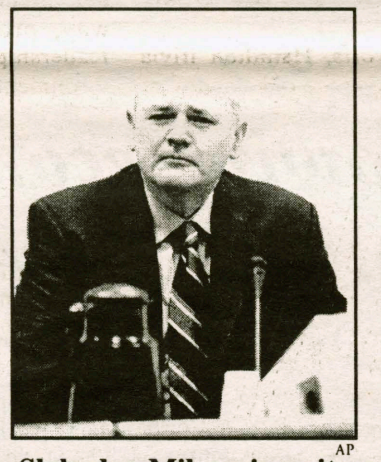
Twice the secretary-general was interrupted by shouts from the crowd, once by Palestinians and once by a Dalit representative.

"Let's have a dialogue. Let's have a serious dialogue," Annan admonished the Dalit representative.

Upon his arrival in Durban, Jackson said efforts to label Israel a racist state threaten to overshadow other issues at the conference, which runs until Sept. 7.

Milosevic to face genocide charges

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — U.N. prosecutors said Thursday that they will indict Slobodan Milosevic for genocide in the Balkan wars. The defiant former Yugoslav president bitterly complained during a tribunal session that he was being isolated in prison, unable to defend himself in the media.



AP

Slobodan Milosevic waits inside court room.

The war crimes tribunal also ordered the appointment of a lawyer to assist Milosevic, who has refused to name his own defense counsel.

Milosevic repeated his refusal to recognize the legitimacy of the The Hague-based court, and said he saw no need to defend himself against what he called illegal indictments. He faces four counts of war crimes for the alleged suppression of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo in 1999.

For the second time in a month, the former dictator squared off against the tough British presiding judge, Richard May, protesting that his meetings with his family and legal advisers were constantly watched by prison guards.

E. Timor moves toward independence

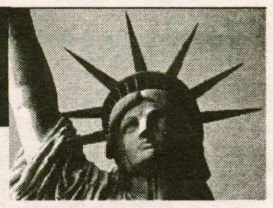
DILI, East Timor (AP) — Women nursed babies held in shoulder slings and people joked with U.N. monitors as they waited in long lines to vote Thursday in a election seen as a historic step toward nationhood for East Timor.

International monitors hailed the vote as a success and officials estimated voter turnout at 93 percent. Vendors sold sweets and cold juices to crowds of voters, who were waiting to chose an assembly that will write the fledgling nation's constitution.

The vote moved East Timor nearer full nationhood after three centuries of Portuguese colonial rule, 24 years of Indonesian occupation, and two years of transitional U.N. administration. A head of state will be elected next April and the 88-member assembly will become the nation's first parliament.

"Aug. 30, 2001 will be remembered in the history of East Timor as a demonstration of the capacity of its people to ... confront their differences in the context of a multiparty democracy," said chief U.N. electoral officer Carlos Valenzuela.

NATIONAL NEWS

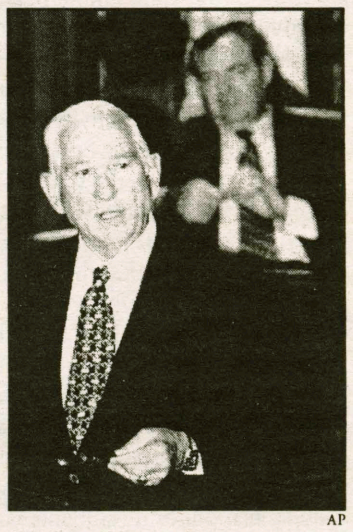


Compiled by Will Fuhrman '04

Judge: Fla. gay adoption ban valid

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge ruled Thursday that Florida's law banning homosexuals from adopting children is valid, accepting the state's argument that married couples provide the most stable households for raising children.

The 1977 law is considered the nation's toughest ban on gay adoptions, prohibiting adoptions by any gay or lesbian individual or couple. Mississippi and Utah also ban adoptions by same-sex couples.



AP

Judge James Lawrence King.

U.S. Judge James Lawrence King accepted the state's argument that the law was in children's best interests because married heterosexuals provide children with a more stable home.

"Plaintiffs have not asserted that they can demonstrate that homosexual families are equivalently stable, are able to provide proper gender identification or are no more socially stigmatizing than married heterosexual families," said King, senior judge for the Miami-based U.S. Southern District of Florida.

Prison escape leader sentenced

DALLAS (AP) — Now that a jury has recommended death for the leader of a gang of escaped inmates who fatally shot a police officer, prosecutors have set their sights on the man's accomplices.

"We have one down and we've got five more to go," District Attorney Bill Hill said Wednesday after George Rivas was sentenced to die for killing Irving Police Officer Aubrey Hawkins during a Christmas Eve robbery.

The outcome of Rivas' case could provide momentum for the capital murder trials of the others, but Rivas' confession that he was responsible for Hawkins' death may help spare them from the same penalty, legal experts said.

Rivas was the admitted ringleader of the seven convicts who escaped in December from a maximum security prison in South Texas. He confessed to shooting Hawkins and asked to die for his crime Wednesday.

"What you call the death penalty, I call freedom," Rivas said during the penalty phase of his trial. "I'm telling you right now, I don't want another life sentence."

The jury deliberated less than two hours before announcing the death sentence.

"It sets the tone from a public outcry standpoint that this is an individual who deserves the death penalty if there ever was one," said Dallas appellate consultant Robert Scott, who wasn't connected with the trial. "I think they made that case in the court of law and in the court of public opinion."

Busboy returns sack of money

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 22-year-old busboy could end up seeing a big payday for returning a sack containing $203,000 that apparently fell out of an armored truck, police said.

"I'm poor, but I'm honest," said Ascension Franco Gonzales.

The man, who emigrated from Mexico last year, said through an interpreter that he saw the money fall out of the truck as he waited for a bus Monday night. He told police that he had a difficult time sleeping because he didn't know what to do, but on Tuesday morning he called 911 to report the money, Sgt. Rick Sanchez said.

Sgt. John Pasquariello said Gonzales could receive a $25,000 reward offered by armored car company AT Systems.

Editorial

The Spectator

Editorial

For years Hamilton's Resident Advisors have been asked, as part of their job description, to patrol their respective hallways nightly in an effort to maintain the safety and well-being of their advisees. However, while it has always technically been part of the job, patrolling has never really been enforced. That will change this year.

Now, Res Life has specifically instructed all RAs to carry out their patrol duties. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, one RA per residence hall is supposed to patrol the hallways in order to, according to Res Life, "make [the RAs] more accessible to the students." Sounds like a good plan on paper, but let's be serious; is this really some innocent act of benevolence toward the student body on the part of Res. Life or is it merely a cover-up for a more underhanded scheme?

It is the opinion of *The Spectator* that it is the latter. First of all, if the true purpose of this activity is to make the RAs more accessible to their fellow students, then why do they patrol solely on the three nights of the week during which the students themselves are the least accessible.

If Res Life really wanted the RAs to become more accessible, then they should instruct them to walk the halls the other four nights of the week, when students are more likely to actually be in their rooms. Don't lie to students by disguising a blatant attempt to put a halt to the escalating campus damage bills with such a poor excuse as checking on beleaguered freshmen.

In addition, each RA is supposed to report any problems to a designated RA on call. This presents another potential for unnecessary conflict. RAs are students as well, and they undoubtedly have friends who are not RA's. Is it beneficial for the Hamilton community to have students monitoring students? It's one thing for a student to report on a fellow student on their own volition, but it is another to force a select few of them to do so. It is campus safety's job to patrol the Hamilton Campus, not the RAs.

Efforts toward stifling campus damage and ensuring the safety of the Hamilton community should be not only welcomed but also encouraged. However, forcing a handful of students to be the enforcers is not fair. Furthermore, pretending that such a campus-wide crackdown is just some innocent stroll through the hallways is deceitful.

While Res Life's intentions should be applauded, their methods should be frowned upon.

Letters to the Editor

With the beginning of a new school year, I am once again dismayed that Hamilton does not honor Labor Day. A national holiday in the rest of the country, Labor Day was created as a day to recognize and remember the American labor movement. Although unionization and hence the population for which the day was created has decreased over the past few decades, this fact doesn't make honoring the day any less important. While created with industrial workers in mind, Labor Day has become a day to celebrate all workers, whether blue collar, white collar or service.

By choosing to ignore this particular national holiday the college is sending a message that the American labor movement is both unimportant and unworthy of recognition. Furthermore, the college is showing its own employees that because they do not fall into the traditional category of honored workers that they are unworthy of recognition.

Finally, not honoring this day sends a social message to the student population. Hamilton is an institution with an indisputable elitist history, even more so than comparable colleges and universities. In recent years, however, the demographics of the college have shifted considerably. While thirty years ago there may have been few students from a working class background, there are now many whose can trace working class roots to their grandparents, if not to their parents. By remaining open on Labor Day, Hamilton ignores the personal histories of the new generation of students, and chooses to reinforce its elitist roots, even as they are fading.

Jonathan Fiedler '02

The Spectator

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Celebrating our 102nd year in print

News

Online registration could debut in Spring '02

by Maria Cubeta '05
NEWS WRITER

As early as this spring Hamilton may switch to a web-based course registration system, says Hamilton College's Registrar, Kristin Friedel. Such a system would potentially eliminate the long lines, the long waits and the frustrations that are so characteristic of Hamilton's registration process.

Plans are tentative, says Friedel, because the registrar's office just received the software, however as soon as courses for this term are settled, an implementation committee will begin meeting. This meant that this year's freshmen class had to register the old-fashioned way.

Freshmen registration went "ok" this fall, according to Friedel. Ambitious students started lining up more than one hour before their designated time frame in order to ensure placement in their first choice classes. Most students were able to get into their pre-selected courses; however, many students were not able to get the sections or times that they wanted.

The lack of core requirements for first years seemed to have a positive effect on course availability. Freshmen this year did not feel the usual pressure to take certain courses in certain departments, Friedel says. Students therefore signed up for different varieties of courses, causing courses to fill at a slower pace.

Several classes, however, did fill up quickly. The first classes to go this year were English 150, philosophy, many of the psychology and language courses.

Course registration was held on Thursday of orientation week rather than on Friday, as in previous years. The extra day gave freshman more time to fill their schedule. For example, students who did not sign up for a fourth class on Thursday were able to come back on Friday and finish registration. This made for a smoother first day of classes on Monday.

Slowing economy strains United States budget

by Mithat Yaltir '03
NEWS WRITER

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) announced earlier this week that $9 billion dollars from the Social Security fund surplus would be diverted to different government programs. CBO figures contradict the ones announced by the White House last week. The White House predicted a surplus of $1 billion, which does not include approximately $158 billion in excess funds collected through payroll taxes for Social Security.

"[The CBO figures] represent only the beginning of the bad news," Rep. John M. Spratt Jr. (D-S.C.), the ranking minority member on the House Budget Committee, said. The case gets even worse if one recalls that the expected budget surplus down to $158 billion from the projected $281 billion. The CBO explains that expected budget surplus of $123 billion melted down because of decreased taxes due to weak economy and the tax cut passed by the Bush administration.

Despite criticism from different parties President Bush defended the tax cut. "That money's not the government's money. It's the people's money. And we did the right thing with sharing that money with the people who pay the bills." Bush administration hopes to revive the economy with the tax cut and thereby increase the surplus. On the other hand, President Bush wants additional $1.9 billion for education and another $18 billion for the military.

President was under fire from the Democrats. "There's going to be a very difficult fall for all of us because of [Bush] having a budget plan that didn't add up," said Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. Republicans, on the other hand, assure the public that everything is on the right track and there is nothing to worry about. "Democrats are just afraid there will not be enough taxpayers' money to spend on wasteful government projects," said Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan told the public that budget has been running a deficit for years if Social Security and Medicare liabilities are included. As a result, it seems like the debate in Washington is more about the issue of spending the money, which has been reserved for tomorrow, today. Although Republicans agree that taxes collected for Social Security should not be used for other purposes, President Bush made a couple of exceptions by saying "the only reason we should use Social Security funds is in the case of economic recession and war."

One vital point that was left behind is the fact that money collected by the government is always spent in two ways: retiring debt or government programs. Thus, this debate is about allocation of government funds.

—Quotes taken from yahoo.com online news sources.

from ***Automobile,*** *page 1*

nately white school," said RA Alicia Fucile '03. "Even when you don't realize it, we discriminate. What Dr. Cullen's program did is reinforce the fact that it is ok to be different."

Perhaps the most defining point of Cullen's presentation is that we should not ignore differences but celebrate them. "She made me realize that it is in fact a good thing to recognize people's differences," said Chris Versfelt '05. "She taught me that what is truly important is the way we actively react to those differences."

Although the title of Dr. Cullen's presentation may appear to be a bit extraneous, perhaps there is an association to *The Wizard of Oz*, one that is entirely appropriate for orientation. To those first-years who see Hamilton as a more diverse population, Dr. Cullen's lecture is the perfect yellow brick road to follow in order to make a smooth transition from "Kansas" to Hamilton.

Insights & Ideas

A Different Freshman Experience

Most seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen-year-olds leave for college at relatively the same time: late August. Some student athletes leave their homes early for sports, but in general, orientation begins in late August, and classes in early September. For the one-third of the freshmen who have matriculated at Hamilton College this fall who participated in Adirondack Adventure, the departure from home

BILL CHENEVERT '05

was quite different. They probably didn't get the send-off from their friends that they would have liked, or another week of work for some more spending money. Looking back, as a participant in this amazingly unique pre-orientation program myself, I think that those losses are miniscule in comparison to the benefits received from an experience that, for many, changed our lives and got us ready to conquer any of the challenges that Hamilton would throw at us.

150 bold young people arrived on campus Monday, August 13th, one week earlier than the rest of our classmates. For some it meant moving in; for others it meant a confusion of temporary rooms and roommates. Nevertheless, the majority of the participants had no idea what was in store for them. We soon found out when we walked out onto the football field at 4:00 PM that day. We were greeted by some bona fide wackos encouraging us to peel our bananas, jump jump bananas, and go bananas. Many of us thought that we might have bitten off more than we could chew. The chaos of goofy games, however, soon plateaued, and we broke up into our groups. We met our trip leaders, our trip mates, made first impressions, and worried about whether or not we were going to have fun. Those first days were simply formalities for our true wilderness experience that was about to begin.

We left early, having enjoyed a shower and a good night's sleep the night before, and arrived at our starting points that Wednesday morning. Some of us got in a canoe for the first time in our lives, some of us got in kayaks, some of us went rock climbing or put on a heavy backpack for the first time, but all of us were so excited. Each day we grew closer to our groups and our leaders, getting to know each trip mate in a way that we hadn't even gotten to know our friends back home. We braved thick and prickly brush, torrential rains, nasty food, uncomfortable packs, arduous hikes, and new experiences together and got to know ourselves a little better as we conquered feats of strength and our own fear.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL CHENEVERT '05

For some, the best part was peaking mountains. One of my friends, Ben, had never seen the kind of mountains that we got to see at the top of Cat Mountain; there just isn't anything like them in Illinois. The Adirondacks were the perfect setting for naïve, excited, and courageous young freshmen to get ready for college. We cleared our heads, made some lifelong friends, came back to campus with some amazing pictures, and braced ourselves for the myriad of opportunities that would present themselves in the years to come. For those who did not get the opportunity that the lucky participants did, I say you missed out, but there's plenty of opportunity for similar experiences that us participants would be more than glad to show you. Adirondack Adventure is a great Hamilton tradition that will last forever here on the Hill as well as in the participants' hearts.

The Lottery: A Tax on Poverty

"Hey, you never know." We associate this phrase with a little bald man and the state lottery. "Somebody's going to win the lottery, just not you" would paint a much more accurate picture of what occurs. State lotteries have become a massive business. Thirty-seven states have state-owned lotteries that bring in huge amounts of money. Politicians sell the lottery as an alternative to raising taxes, since participation is voluntary. However, there are also moral and social implications that must be examined before full support of this "voluntary" tax can be adopted.

THOMAS ACAMPORA '05

The idea of a voluntary tax seems to be a fair one. A tax that allows people to choose how much they wish to pay while having fun is at first quite appealing. However, you know that something is wrong when conservatives are wholeheartedly supporting something called a tax. The ethical problem with this "tax" lies in the advertising. State governments spend millions of dollars advertising lotteries. Unfortunately, these ads are largely targeted at the poor and underprivileged. One billboard in a city ghetto promised, "Your ticket out of here: play the lottery."

States continue to look for ways to entice citizens to play. They cannot even hide behind the excuse that they provide a constructive outlet for people who would gamble anyway. A 1987 Maryland state audit proposed research into "what game is most effective in luring an individual into playing for the first time." States rely on the funds brought in from lotteries and will work to protect this revenue. When Maryland lottery sales declined six percent in fiscal 1997, the state lottery agency vowed to redouble "aggressive marketing efforts," including the use of direct mail solicitation. In soliciting bids from advertising agencies, the lottery cited "a critical need to increase lottery game sales more quickly."

Lotteries use not only advertising, but also polls, focus groups, and sophisticated dissections of player psychology. State lotteries design games to cater to specific player patterns and demographics such as gender, race, and age. Poor people are bombarded by advertisements that promise a "way out" and are thereby more inclined to risk some of their much-needed financial resources on that hope. The truth is that very few people ever win the lottery; the odds of payoff are worse than those in any form of gambling.

Companies profit from people. As bad as that seems to some people, that is a company's designated role in society. However, when the state government is attempting to swindle poor people out of much needed funds, the moral outrage should be far greater. States are supposed to protect their citizens, not encourage addictive and self-destructive behavior patterns. It is no surprise that since lotteries were adopted, acceptance of gambling has increased.

These dangers are typically played down by officials, who instead emphasize the benefits to social programs such as education. These funds go to poor schools around the state, so what could be wrong with it?

The harm is to the ticket buyers. Since they are disproportionately poor, this "voluntary" tax is really a regressive one. Even if lotteries benefit education in poor neighborhoods, it is the poor who are disproportionately footing the bill.

If people wish to spend their money on gambling, they have that freedom. However, when states become monopolizing bookies, we have a serious public policy issue on our hands. "Lotteries bring out the worst in politicians," noted Richard Leone, commissioner from New Jersey. "They are heavily and misleadingly advertised; they pay back to bettors the smallest share of the take of any legal game . . . yet lotteries have proven to be catnip for elected officials who fear taxation." Even if a lottery is a good way to direct gambling money into constructive uses, states should not view it as a tax, nor should they spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year to advertise and entice people to gamble.

Lottery players have the smallest chance of hitting it big out of any form of gambling. If states are going to have a legalized form of gambling, they should at least make the odds comparable to fairer institutions such as Las Vegas casinos. The way state-owned lotteries are currently doing business is totally unethical, and citizens should begin to hold their politicians accountable.

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THUMBS UP

- Returning to find that nothing on the Hill ever really changes
- Horner's fashion statements
- The Campus Safety van's rim job
- CAB bringing Counting Crows
- The Keehn faculty apartment
- The senior guy monopoly on freshman facebooks
- 2nd floor Carnegie parties
- "New" Spectator office couches
- Canoes
- Public fencing demonstrations

THUMBS DOWN

- Returning to find that nothing on the Hill ever really changes
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- Watching Campus Safety give you a parking ticket
- Holding Open House while upperclassmen move in

WHO CARES?

- The return of the Chapel bell
- Reynolds's current diet (Slim-Fast and booze)
- Repaving and new curbs

Arts & Entertainment

Dancer in the Dark turns heads on video

by Aletha Asay '05
A&E WRITER

"I need more of a beat," Selma, played expertly by Björk, stubbornly requests from her place on a school stage in a shoddy community production of *The Sound of Music*. The beat becomes the character's inspiration, and, eventually, her only link to the world in this story of a secretly near-blind Czech immigrant, her effort to keep her son from reaching the same fate, and her fantasy world of music. The film *Dancer in the Dark*, written by Lars Von Trien with music by Björk, stars Björk as Selma and French actress Catherine Deneuve as Selma's friend, Kathy. Set in an inconspicuous factory town in Middle America in an ambiguous time frame, the film presents unlikely characters worthy of a second look.

Selma, the main character, for example, at the beginning seems to be a poor, ordinary, albeit a little dreamy factory worker, struggling to pay rent on her trailer home and to provide a safe home for her twelve-year-old son. Björk puts across this image very effectively, but it is soon apparent that there is much more to this characterization. Selma is a chronic daydreamer and imagines music to be everywhere, even in the heart of a noisy factory. This particular dream results in a fictional dance routine through the factory, reminiscent of *Stomp*.

From thence forward, musical musings become Selma's escape from her troubled world and provide a window into her intricate personality, deftly portrayed by Björk's subtle facial expressions and tone of voice. Björk's performance did not go unnoticed: she won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival, Best European Actress from the European Film Academy, Outstanding Dramatic Performance from the National Board of Review Awards, as well as nominations for Golden Globe, Oscar, and Grammy Awards. The duet "I've Seen It All" from the *Dancer* soundtrack was also widely acclaimed, hence its many awards and nominations. The soundtrack itself, titled *Selmasongs*, contains some of Björk's most innovative and richly textured work yet.

WWW.TVROPA.COM
Björk plays the enigmatic Selma in Lars Von Trier's *Dancer in the Dark*.

Although Selma's plight to protect her son from the knowledge that her vision is diminishing and that his eventually will as well is the primary story, the plot has more depth. Selma's weakness makes her wary of unwarranted succor, especially from a male friend who wants to provide a father-like role for her son. Selma really should be more worried about her devious landlord and police authorities, who, unfortunately, are the few people she trusts. This irony ultimately costs Selma her life, but not without a few gut-wrenching scenes of domestic horror and sorrow, made more intense by the viewer's knowledge of what Selma cannot see. Meanwhile, Selma tries to combat her darkening situation by escaping into music.

Dancer in the Dark is well crafted and very emotional, from the uplifting and mood- setting songs to the honest characterizations to the unthinkable twists. Although watching this film demands careful attention and an open mind, it was definitely the most moving and thought-provoking film I've seen in a long time. Despite many characters' misunderstanding and efforts to silence, literally and figuratively, Selma's hopeful song, the final message of the power and beauty of music rings true.

Info provided by: www.bjork.com, www.amazon.com.

American Pie 2: funny, predictable

by Chris Fogelstrom
A&E EDITOR

Have you ever seen a funny movie and realized, only too late, that your uncontrollable laughter during the flick had more to do with the hysterical nature of the crowd than with the tickling of your so-called funny bone? This is the feeling that swept over me after seeing this summer's latest installment to the *American Pie* family.

With the entire cast of the original *American Pie* on board, including old favorites such as Stifler and Michelle, *American Pie 2* once again exploits the simple facts of life in order to make you laugh.

WWW.PIEMOVIE2.COM
Jason Biggs and Seann Scott in *American Pie 2*

Plot wise, the second helping of *American Pie* delivers exactly what you would expect from a sequel of its kind. The movie begins, appropriately, with the main character, Jim, getting a surprise visit in his college dorm room from his father. I dare say that the movie wouldn't be worth seeing if Jim's ambitious father didn't walk in on at least one of Jim's already awkward attempts at "getting some."

From there the movie is about an hour and half worth of equally embarrassing moments for Jim and his friends. The group rents a cottage on the beach in an attempt to, surprisingly, meet girls and drink beer. Of course, each character's saga is the same. Stifler is still lust-driven and crude, Jim is still awaiting Nadia, the foreign exchange student love of his life, and Michelle is, well, still attending band camp and loving it. If you would like to hear the rest of the story, you'll have to shell out the seven or eight bucks to see it in the theaters, although you might want to think twice about doing that. Here's why:

For starters, the movie is predictable and crude in the truest sense of the word. Second, the movie is only enjoyable for adolescent males or people who think like them. (Luckily, they are the majority of the movie's viewing audience.) And honestly, if someoneof high moral standards had an IQ level low enough to go see this movie, he deserves whatever he gets. But I digress. As I stated earlier, the movie is really only as funny as your movie-going companions are willing to make it. If you attend this movie along with a theater full of clones from the cast of *Animal House*, you will find it hysterical. If you don't, you might be left a bit hanging by some of the crowd-enhanced toilet humor. Fortunately, I attended the movie when the former situation was true.

Now don't get me wrong, the movie was funny, quite, in fact. I could not have put together a better collection of nauseatingly funny moments involving all the things that concern any freethinking college-aged intellectual: sex, urine, and beer.

While these things may not be your cup of proverbial tea, they are the ingredients to most of the laughs in *American Pie 2*. The movie attempts to keep a theme of friendship and good times constant throughout, which gives it some redeeming qualities for those who are not amused by its cruder aspects.

WWW.PIEMOVIE2.COM
Eugene Levy gives Biggs the ol' man to man.

All in all, I would recommend this movie for a good laugh. The previews do not lie; in fact, they pretty much tell the whole plot. The producers of *American Pie 2* know how to make a movie that will make the majority of us college-goers laugh. So, if you ask me, reward their tap on our vein of immaturity with your patronage. You won't be disappointed.

Crows to visit Hamilton

PRESS RELEASE

The Counting Crows are schedule to perform for Hamilton College on October 26th at the Stanley Theater in Utica, New York.

The sextet, formed in San Francisco a decade ago, and has been performing and writing since their 1993 debut album, *August and Everything After*. The band's 2001 tour, with venues including Yale University, Dartmouth College, Hofstra University, and Michigan State University, is scheduled to last through November. With the spellbinding talents of singer/songwriter/front man Adam Duritz on the microphone and the guitar-powered wall of sound provided by David Bryson and the rest of the crew, the band's visit to Hamilton College will be an unforgettable event. Tickets for the show will go on sale September 16th here at Hamilton College. For more information, contact the Campus Activities Board via an email to cab@hamilton.edu.

WWW.COUNTINGCROWS-L.ORG
Crows frontman Adam Duritz.

News

Veterinarian tames students using hypnosis

by Catrina Lexa '05
NEWS WRITER

Dr. Al Snyder, hypnotist and veterinarian, put on a show for the entire campus in Wellin Hall last Saturday. He invited 30 first-years and returning students to sit onstage in a semi-circle. Then, as participants relaxed and watched a beam of light in his hand, he led them into a dream-like state. Within minutes, most had their eyes closed and heads slumped over their knees.

First, Dr. Snyder took everyone through a couple of warmup exercises, suggesting temperature changes to them and taking the temperature from so hot that the people on stage began loosening their shirts and fanning themselves, to so cold and rainy that they huddled into balls and tried to hide from the chill.

One of the highlights of the evening came when Dr. Snyder convinced a boy that he was Jennifer Lopez and that (s)he was performing for Hamilton College. Draped in a pink boa and followed by two backup singers, he began to sing. Unfortunately, one of the Orientation Leaders on stage thought that she was the real Jennifer Lopez. After fighting for a while, the two put on a joint show.

"The best part was the Jennifer Lopez impersonation because it didn't go the way he planned," said Louis Vaickus '05.

Dr. Snyder also led four boys to believe that they were pregnant. He took them through four stages of pregnancy: three months, six months, nine months, and finally, a miracle birth.

One boy, when Dr. Snyder suggested that they were nine months along, went into immediate intensive labor. Dr. Snyder rectified the situation quickly by telling the "pregnant" boy that he was not quite that far along yet; he was just very close.

At the end of the show, Dr. Snyder told the participants that they would have no recollection of what they had done, but would feel very rested and would wake up the next morning feeling refreshed with great study habits and people skills. Once participants reached the door, they were completely free of his suggestions.

Ryan Burns '05, who held a conversation with Dr. Snyder in an "alien language," said that he could remember more and more as time went on. He remembered seeing the hypnotist's naked behind – one of the early exercises – and being completely disgusted; however, he still had no idea where he got his alien language from.

Tobin focuses on diversity in convocation speech

*from **Convocation**, page 1*

and honor him, that added a lot to the ceremony," said McArn.

Kristi Williamson '02 attributed Greengard's speech to what she said was an excellent convocation ceremony. "I thought it was the most enjoyable convocation ceremony of the last three years," she said.

Some faculty and students expressed surprise at the content of Greengard's speech, which was titled, "A Life in Science: Selected Memories."

"I expected him to talk more about science," said Alison Lynn '03.

Emily Backman '04 echoed Lynn's expectation, hoping Greengard would detail the science surrounding his Nobel Prize. "He didn't talk much about his accomplishments," she said

While Greengard lauded the merit of a liberal education during convocation, in a pre-convocation press-conference Greengard dismissed suggestions that a liberal arts education helped students establish ethical guidelines in the modern world.

"I'd like to say that it's very valuable, but I don't think its very valuable at all," said Greengard. He cited the advanced arts and culture valued in German society prior to World War II in support of his position.

Following Greengard, President Tobin delivered a charged speech to the campus calling for increased interaction between different groups comprising the Hamilton community.

"Diversity, of course, is not an end in itself, it is the substance from which human learning, understanding, and wisdom derives," said Tobin. "Little if anything can substitute for continued association with people who are different and diverse to challenge you, just as you challenge them."

Tobin's remarks, following a year marked by several acts of hate, were well received by the community.

"He touched upon a lot of important issues that needed to be addressed," said Williamson.

"I thought what he had to say about diversity not being an end in itself was interesting. I'm curious to how people will react to that," said McArn.

McArn said Tobin's presentation of current and long-standing social issues presented the community with an insightful and thought-provoking view of diversity on campus.

Open house has record attendance

*from **Open house**, page 1*

are not only well-spoken, but well represent the college."

At 11:15, the large crowd divided into groups for tours given by Hamilton students. This group of student tourguides had arrived on campus earlier that week for a training session.

With SAT - 1 scores becoming optional for admission (effective for students in the class of 2006), the elimination of the core academic requirements, and an upcoming science facility, Hamilton is a rapidly changing environment for prospective students.

Cardamone stresses that though it is impossible to be well versed in every single Hamilton detail, all the tourguides are well-informed and kept up to date on new material and projects in development.

The high attendance at Hamilton's Summer Open House suggests that there might be a strong flow of applications for admission next year.

Poll central to MTV campaign

*from **Poll**, page 1*

said Co-coordinator of the Rainbow Alliance Eric Nuñez '04.

One of the survey's biggest surprises was that eight out of ten Catholic students supported recognition of same-sex marriages. "I have no idea how (they can support same-sex marriages)," said Gilbert, who helped develop the survey. "I can only say that they really aren't listening to the church."

Students who analyzed the survey data also noted that parents' level of education did not correlate with students' openness to gays and lesbians.

Despite some optimistic data, the poll also revealed the extent to which discrimination persists in high schools. Ninety percent of students reported widespread harassment of gays and lesbians in their high school. Eighty-eight percent said that the phrase, "That's gay," is used by other students in their schools. Fifty percent have seen gay students called derogatory names such as "faggot," "dyke," and "homo."

"I try to stay optimistic about it, but that sets me back a bit," said Nuñez.

"They are positive results with a dash of negativity. It's great they're so liberal, but they're still seeing a lot of harassment," said Jones.

The survey initially rose out of a sociology class project entitled "Using Survey Research" said Gilbert, who suggested the topic to the class.

"No one's ever asked kids those kinds of questions before," said Jones.

Each student in the class helped formulate questions for a pilot survey, then the group collectively called 215 students to test what worked and what didn't. After adding questions regarding education and making minor word changes to a few questions, they released the final version of the survey. Throughout the class students focused on the research, not their personal feelings, said Gilbert.

While the survey reveals more liberal sentiments generally, Nuñez questions whether the results can be applied to the Hamilton community. "Hamilton is pretty conservative. I'd like to think things are getting better, but the views held by most of the student body aren't completely inline with that (survey)," said Nuñez. He points out that attendance at the Homohop, a dance sponsored by the Rainbow Alliance, has dropped in recent years: "It used to be something straights, gays, and any other alternative lifestyles could enjoy together. Now it's dwindled to the little gay community here on campus."

At the very least, says Jones, the students who worked on the survey learned to be more sensitive to gay and lesbian issues. "It's opened up our eyes," he said. "You think a little more before you speak."

RAs, OLs make moving in a breeze

by Emily Grimm '05
NEWS WRITER

When faced with the task of leaving family, friends, clean bathrooms, and other comforts of home for a new life at Hamilton, many first-year students think about moving day with fear and uncertainty. Once students put their emotional trauma aside, however, they realize that their first day at Hamilton holds a far greater challenge than those mentioned above: moving everything they own up three flights of stairs and into a room shared by one or more strangers. Resident advisors and orientation leaders, who stood poised at the entrance to each dorm ready to run even the heaviest of objects to students' rooms, made this potentially nightmarish process relatively painless.

"The whole process was a lot easier than I expected," said Meredith Howley '05 and new resident of Kirkland. "I definitely didn't expect to have so many people converging on my car offering to help carry my stuff."

"The energy of the resident advisors and orientation leaders was unbelievable. They carried my heaviest boxes up three flights and managed to look happy while doing it," said Kim Douglas '05.

The moving process didn't end there, however. Once the RAs and OLs did all the hard work, new students were left to decide how to best fit a large amount of luggage into a small amount of space.

"It took us a long time to figure out how to position our desks so they would all fit and be able to be plugged into an outlet," said Cecelia Tripp '05. "I live in a triple, so we had to move our desks at least three times before we found the best combination."

Tripp is one of many students who found themselves living with not one, but multiple new roommates, an abrupt change in lifestyle for those students used to having their bedroom as a place of their own.

"At home, my room was always messy," confessed Rachel Levy'05, one of Tripp's roommates. "When we moved in on the first day, we had to work for a long time just to figure out how to fit all of our stuff into the room. I definitely don't have room to be a slob here."

Despite the disturbing new realities first-years had to face on moving day, many found the experience positive overall. "Moving wasn't so bad," reflected Howley. "With all the help I got, I ended up only having to carry my backpack!"

*from **On-call**, page 1*

tion of the RA on call program: "(In the past) an RA would sit in their room the night that they were on call. No one was getting called and a couple of RAs came up to me in the spring to ask me if we could do something."

Moot explained that with RAs making rounds they would be more aware of and able to deal with things like homesick freshman and rowdy or destructive students.

Many RAs were not enthusiastic about the program, which increased the number of RAs on call and required RAs to circulate throughout the campus. RAs worried about safety and the inconvenience of trekking between buildings.

"No one wanted to walk down to Rogers... It was unnecessary from my point of view. It wasn't very logical way to do it," said Resident Advisor Heather Pratt '04.

The plan, a work in progress, then evolved into its current state which requires one RA in each building to do rounds twice nightly and call in to one of two official RAs on call reporting the state of their dormitory."

Moot explained that increased communication among the RAs would facilitate RAs handling certain complaints that would otherwise require campus safety attention, including noise complaints. "A student would rather have a fellow student confronting them than a uniformed officer," he said.

Residential Life Area Coordinator Ryan Lovell who devised the plan said, "It's not patrolling, we're not out to bust people."

According to Lovell an RA can deal with minor infractions without filing reports. Lovell said that the new system reflects what expectations of RAs have been all along, however it clarifies and formalizes those expectations.

While some student's have concerns about the presence of RAs, others welcome RA walk-throughs. "I think it's a good idea. I don't think it's going to put a huge crimp on anyone's plans and if it is they were probably over the line to begin with," said Andy Spong '02.

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Features

Overseas returnees cope with cultural readjustment

by Amy Kopriva '02
FEATURES EDITOR

This article highlights two seniors' experiences of living abroad and returning home and to Hamilton. Although not a scientific analysis, it attempts to examine the similarities and differences between these students' perspectives and "Life 101: An Introduction to Reverse Culture Shock and Re-Entry Adjustment," a pamphlet sent to all overseas program participants by the Dean of Students Office, prepared by Tamara Scapicchio '95. If this article inspires interest and demonstrates need, the Features section will contain an update of the students' perspectives on later stages of the adjustment process and re-assimilation into American and college culture. The Features section welcomes other members of the senior class to contact us with alternate points of view or experiences for a future article.

Welcome Back! Each year, at least one quarter of the junior class spends a semester or year in a foreign country. Although time and energy concentrates on preparing the student for the adjustment they will experience upon arrival, students often do not anticipatehaving to readjust upon return.

According to Scapicchio's report, students progress through four stages upon return and may experience a gamut of emotions because of the effects of personal growth and the challenges in incorporating new ideas and experiences into old conceptions of self and community. So how are our two seniors faring since they stepped off the plane and onto Hamilton soil?

Conversations with Joseph Livingston '02 and Carrie Patch '02 revealed that readjustment is real. Livingston was abroad for a year, spending his first semester with the School for International Training's Middle East Peace and Conflict Studies Program and second semester as a student at the University of Tel Aviv. Carrie Patch '02, also abroad for a year, spent her first semester interning in the oldest and largest West End theater in London and second semester at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. Livingston, who was not able to complete his program in the Middle East because of safety concerns, was transferred to Geneva, Switzerland for the remainder of his program.

Describing his feelings about returning to Hamilton, he said, "I guess it seemed like my entire study abroad experience was a dream and had not happened. With friends, I felt like I'd never really left, yet I'd had a life-altering experience. Hamilton seemed the same as when I left but it felt different. This was a strange sensation." Patch commented similarly, "I was both anxious and nervous to come back. It felt very familiar here, but because I have changed, I also had less of a feeling of belonging."

Patch recounted the experience of walking across Martin's Way and being stopped by old friends who ask, "How was it ?"and her dumbfounded reaction. This situation frustrated her, "I came up with generic ways of describing the experience that really do not work. I know that people ask to be polite, but do not expect for me to unleash all my stories on them," she said. Livingston agreed, saying, "I admit sometimes I do avoid talking about it because I do not want to overwhelm someone or make them feel alienated."

According to the Dean of Students report, these feelings are common. It states that the readjustment process has four stages: initial euphoria and excitement, irritability and hostility, gradual adjustment, and, finally, adaptation. According to Patch, the first stage was brief but intense. "I think that happened between the plane and the car," she commented. Livingston said, "I think I skipped steps one and two. I'm gradually adjusting now."

Although both students had not experienced any hostile feelings, Patch acknowledged the feeling of irritability. Her feelings center on her desire to avoid becoming the typical study abroad returnee, whom she described as having "a holier-than-thou, pretentious attitude," although she acknowledged that it is difficult to accept that many people just do not care what you have done. She clarified, "The irritability that I feel is not towards others, though, it is towards myself. Sometimes I just say to myself, why can't you just adapt already? and then I realize that I need to step away from myself and recognize that I want to be happy here and that it is unreasonable to expect to feel comfortable again automatically."

So what are the signs that students who have been abroad are not comfortable automatically? Out of the sixteen reactions that students may encounter listed in the report, Livingston and Patch nodded their heads to eleven of them. Examples of reactions they had experienced include homesickness for the host culture, withdrawal from activities and people, negativity or intolerance toward Americans, uncertainty toward educational and career plans, and feelings of isolation from family, friends, and community due to changes in individuals and relationships.

PHOTO BY AMY KOPRIVA '02

You've never seen rocks like these on campus: Patch and others admired Stonehenge's splendor.

Both students reported these feelings are decreasing with time, and agreed that supportive family and friend networks ease the process. Patch also introduced a personal coping method for the stress caused by trying to reconnect with people," Part of adaptation is to accept and change the direction of a relationship if necessary." Although it is early in the year, Livingston plans to incorporate his overseas growth into practical action on campus by working with Amnesty International. He explained, " I am interested and motivated to do this, but it [the outcome] is yet to be determined. One of my fears is that it will be difficult, and I will feel unsettled and bored. But I do still believe in the idea of a liberal arts education. In many ways, I like the isolation [of Hamilton.] I think we have a good learning environment here." Patch echoed a similar belief in the nurturing potential of Hamilton. "If I wanted to make a presentation about my experience, it would be very easily set. The community would not put any restraint on it. It is very personable here."

Likewise, Livingston is optimistic about Hamilton's ability to embrace the growth in study abroad students and for a positive outcome to result from the new interaction. "I like to take bigger risks now and am much more curious about learning from people. I am inspired to search out new opportunities to express these changes and to not find myself in the same box I began in," he declared.

For more information, see Scapicchio's full report:

Scapicchio, Tamara. *A Pragmatic and Empirical Review of Reverse Culture Shock and Re-Entry Adjustment: Insights and Strategies.* Senior Thesis in Intercultural Communication. Hamilton College, December 1994.

Alcohol survey says: two-thirds equals one-fourth, *again*

by Elizabeth Rabe '04
FEATURES WRITER

They're everywhere. Again this year, posters that read "two-thirds equal one-fourth" hang on the walls. What does this equation represent? It describes our drinking habits. Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Bob Kazin explains that "the majority, two-thirds, of our students are drinking only one-fourth of the alcohol on campus." The college published these results to educate students about drinking at Hamilton.

In November of 1998 the Presidential Coalition on Alcohol and Other Drugs conducted a survey on alcohol and drug use at Hamilton College. In the words of Kazin, the coalition wanted to understand "what the behavior of Hamilton students is."

To provide accurate results, a computer randomly selected 400 students to create a stratified sample. In each class year, fifty men and fifty women received questionnaires in their mailboxes that asked about their alcohol and drug use. Fifty-nine percent of these students provided responses. The coalition sent these gathered surveys to a company in Illinois for professional analysis.

The analysis of this survey revealed that 69 percent of Hamilton students drink only 27 percent of the alcohol on campus. For publication purposes, the coalition rounded these numbers to create the "two-thirds equals one-fourth" formula.

In February of 2001 the Presidential Coalition repeated this survey. The February 2001 survey provided similar results as the 1998 November survey. The February 2001 survey revealed that 72 percent of Hamilton students consume only 25 percent of the alcohol on campus, meaning that 28 percent of Hamilton students drink 75 percent of the alcohol. The average student also drinks only once a week.

Dr. Bob Kazin likes to provide a specific example to illustrate these results. He tells students "to imagine that you have a small party of six people and one 24 beer case." At the end of the evening, all of the alcohol has been consumed. Four of the six students at the party have finished one of the six packs of beer. The other two party-goers have "wiped out" the other three six packs, or eighteen beers. Kazin called this a "sizeable majority" of the alcohol.

Besides questioning a student's individual drinking and drug use habits, the survey also asked what students thought the average alcohol and drug usage of their fellow classmates was. Consistently, students overestimated these numbers. Most students believed that an average Hamilton student drank three times a week. In reality, a typical student consumes alcohol only once a week.

Soon thereafter, the Presidential Coalition launched a campaign to inform students of the results. Last year , posters with the infamous cup and equation hung in prominent places in college buildings announcing these results. The coalition plans to aggressively publish these results again this year. Kazin believes that "by simply telling the results we can reinforce moderate drinking and let students know what is normative." Kazin clarified himself by saying, Students need to know the truth."

Apparently, this approach has worked at other colleges like the University of Arizona, Western Washington State, Northern Illinois University, and even at nearby Hobart and William Smith College. These institutions all experienced less building damage, fewer fights, and better attendance at class.

Kazin believes that the campaign here at Hamilton has affected the students. Last year, Hamilton experienced a 16 percent decrease in dorm damage. The EMTs responded to 22 alcohol-related problems. Thirteen of these students went to the emergency room for medical care. This was a 27 percent drop from the 1999-2000 academic year. But Kazin does admit that "we don't know the definitive reason" for this drop in damage and alcohol-related medical emergencies.

The Presidential Coalition hopes to encourage responsible drinking once again this year with their campaign. Start looking soon for the two-thirds equals one-fourth signs again.

The Science Page

Biology Department Welcomes New Professor

by Hannah Stahle '03
SCIENCE EDITOR

The start of school brings many fresh faces to Hamilton College. This year, the biology department is pleased to have a fresh face of its own, as Visiting Professor Tom Diggins will be roaming the halls of the science building for the next year.

Specializing in invertebrate biology, he characterizes himself as an aquatic environmental biologist and will teach invertebrate biology this semester.

As an invertebrate expert, Diggins reminds us what an important role invertebrates play in everyday life. "Think about the plankton in the aquatic ecosystems and the importance of insects with our diverse systems of plants; ninety-eight percent of animals orient on ecosystems and habitats where invertebrates are the major players."

As an invertebrate biologist, Diggins earned his Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo in 1997 and is an expert in the field of invading species. He calls these invading species, such as the zebra mussel, "the greatest threat to biological diversity" because they can quickly push out the native plant and animal populations and have the potential to "alter the dynamics of energy and contaminant flows."

As the world becomes increasingly global, it is impossible to stop the spread of species to foreign habitats, and it is especially difficult to stop them from thriving in their new environments.

Diggins says that the best way to deal with the problem is to "operate from the assumption that they're here. We have to live with them and have to be prepared for future damage."

"Thirty years ago," Diggins says, "The Great Lakes were a disaster. They've slowly been cleaned up, but now they're full of invading species. It's not even a question of the natural inhabitants anymore."

Biologists have recently begun using invader species to our advantage. Because zebra mussels are exceptionally strong filter feeders and can filter sediment and algae out of the water very rapidly, they are being used in engineering projects to clean up polluted water.

"Ninety-eight percent of animals orient on ecosystems and habitats where invertebrates are the major players."

Because most water pollutants are hydrophobic, they adhere to the sediment and algae. This makes the zebra mussel the perfect candidate to purify the water. These mussels are being used at the mouths of disposal pipes to collect any pollution before it flows downstream and contaminates the water source.

In addition to Diggins's investigation of invading species acting on their environment, he is currently interested in the dynamics of invading species and the interaction between two types of invaders.

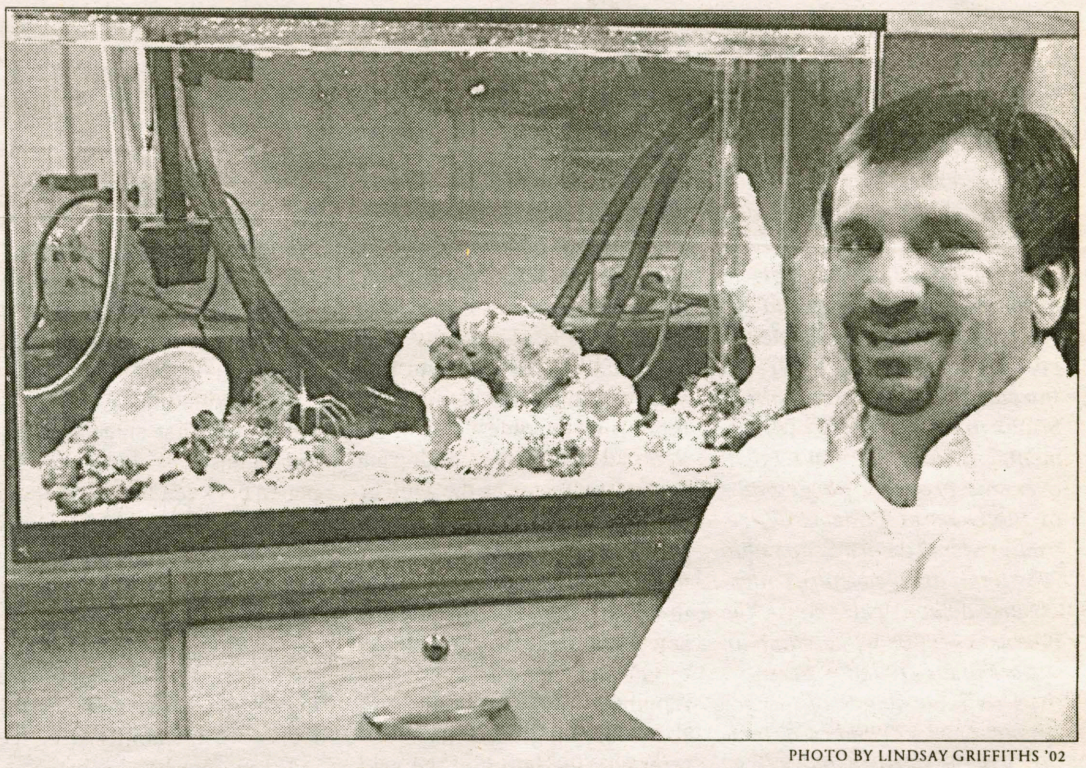


PHOTO BY LINDSAY GRIFFITHS '02

Visiting Professor Diggins with his invertebrate associates, the zebra mussels.

His research focuses on the zebra and the quagga mussels, two closely related species. The quagga mussel arrived in the United States much later than the zebra mussel and is now competing with the zebra mussel either for algal resources or simply for space.

Diggins remarks, "Because the species affect the environment in similar ways, it is very odd for closely related species to be in such competition."

With yards of algae tacked to the walls of his office, Diggins is working on finding the solution. "There are more quagga mussels settled on the bottom of the lakes on the prime settling spaces and more zebra mussels clinging to the algae. This looks like a space issue," Diggins said, and could mean that the quagga mussels are actually slowly pushing the zebra mussels out of their environment.

While the answer is not certain yet, he will routinely map and record the apparently increasing appearance of zebra mussels on the algae samples throughout the year.

Though Diggins remains busy with his classes and his ongoing research, he also spends time as an activist for old growth forests. He is a member of a group from Western New York and is currently working on gaining state recognition of an old growth forest in the Erie Watershed.

In what little time he has left, Diggins entertains himself with a growing collection of vintage guitars and mentions that he is an avid Blues guitarist and played semi-professionally in Buffalo while in graduate school.

Diggins's first impressions of Hamilton are all good. "I have done all my work at large universities, so I love the small personal feel; it's a breath of fresh air." We are very pleased to have Professor Diggins on the faculty this year and wish him the best.

Stem cells: The science behind the politics

by Heather VanGuilder '02
SENIOR SCIENCE WRITER

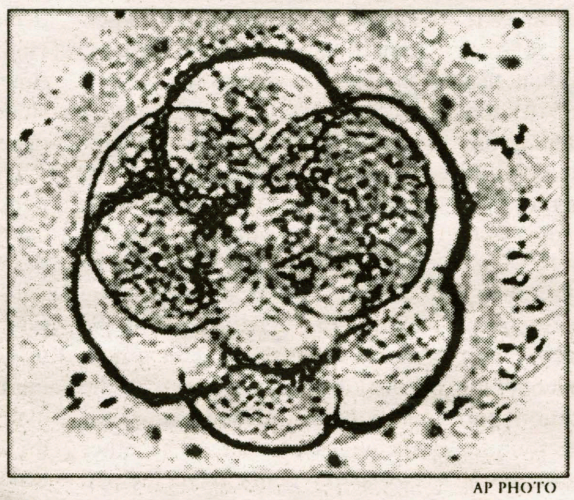
While the recent political controversy over the use of stem cells for genetic research and possible therapeutic applications has forced the phrase into our vocabularies, few of us have gained a real understanding of what the term means.

"Attaining them [stem cells] requires the destruction of an embryo that would otherwise develop into a fetus."

The popular press is a constant source of confusion for many, as it tends to blur the distinction between stem cell technology and cloning. Although superficial similarities do exist in certain aspects of the techniques, the goals and processes are quite different and need to be treated as such both scientifically and ethically.

In his decision earlier this month, President Bush stated that federal funding would only be granted to stem cell research endeavors on the approximately 60 pre-existing stem cell lines.

The most popular use of the term "stem cell" refers to the embryonic cells derived from an immature, undifferentiated blastocyst, the hollow ball of cells that arises after egg fertilization. These cells possess an ability to develop into all cell types and exhibit a seemingly unlimited replication potential. Unfortunately, the cells remain in an undifferentiated state for only a short period of time, becoming recognizable around a week after fertilization and rapidly losing their totipotential, the ability to give rise to a complete individual.



AP PHOTO

An eight-cell blastocyst. Scientists can harvest stem cells at this stage.

The reason that the experimental use of these cells for research is so controversial is that attaining them requires the destruction of an embryo that would otherwise develop into a fetus, and eventually, a human being. Opponents of the technology fear that scientists will begin creating human embryos for the sole purpose of harvesting stem cells for futher medical experimentation.

Scientists have also been exploring the potential of adult stem cells, which have been isolated from tissues such as blood, brain, intestine, skin, and muscle. Unlike embryonic stem cells, however, adult stem cells have not been shown to be capable of developing into all kinds of human cells, thereby limiting their usefulness in research and subsequent treatments. Furthermore, adult stem cells are difficult to isolate and purify and have more DNA damage and a shorter life span than pluripotent embryonic cells.

Professor of Biology Sue Ann Miller, who teaches courses on vertebrate development at Hamilton, points out other problems that arise from President Bush's decision that federal funding will support only research using preexisting embryos from fertility clinics.

When the potential application of stem cell research is publicized, society is innundated with promises of cures for debilitating diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, and even the regrowth of limbs. In light of this, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the couples that patronize fertility clinics suffer from problems that render them incapable of reproduction. Their difficulty in creating a viable zygote could be caused by genetic problems that will be expressed by the resulting embryo, and subsequently in stem cell lines.

Additional issues that must be faced are the question of a frozen embryo's viability and the fact that stem cells function in a way similar to metastasizing cancer cells, dividing and traveling through tissues to all parts of the body. Until we understand the mechanisms controlling stem cell development fully, scientists must be wary of claims of instant success. Harnessing the power of these totipotent cells is a scientific endeavor that necessitates patience and meticulous methodology if we are to maximize their potential.

<u>Next Week</u>: Pros and cons of stem cell research...

Track phenoms look forward to another record breaking season

by Michael Everhart '02
SPORTS WRITER

In 1999 the women's cross-country team had an incredible season by finishing seventh at the NCAA Championships with two All-Americans.

In 2000 the Continentals finished 15th at NCAA's despite some frustrating performances in Spokane, WA, and injuries to almost every runner sometime during the season.

Although it is hard to say what the Continentals will achieve in 2001 after a week of practice, co-captain Maggie Hanson '02 said, "NCAA's is on the schedule and we're talking about it as if it's going to happen, but we haven't mentioned specific goals. People know that they'll probably miss some classes."

The team has good reason to think that it will be flying out to Illinois in late November for the 2001 NCAA Championships.

Although the team lost All-American Kate Nelson, Emily Hill, and Elizabeth Guancial to graduation, there is a talented group of upperclassmen back from last year's team, including Jen Cammarano '03, Alyson Grant '04, Christine Campbell'04, and Lauren Perkins '04, and Annie Toth '02, all of whom competed at NCAA's.

Coach Ellen Hull said, "Kate Nelson is a big loss but we get Maggie Hanson back [after being abroad last fall]. The other upperclassmen all came back in good shape."

There are also several juniors studying abroad, while Tricia Kowalski '03 will not be competing because of mononucleosis.

Joining the team this year is a talented group of new runners.

"We have about eight to nine very strong freshmen that could help us," said Coach Ellen Hull, "we will be deeper [this year] than last year," since there are 19 runners on the team.

Hanson added, "The freshmen are great. I'm really impressed."

The team's season starts next weekend with its annual dual meet against Union at Saratoga Springs.

None of the returning runners has ever lost to Union.

Becca Walker '02 said, "There's a nice course at Saratoga and it'll be some good race experience, especially since we're running there more than once this season. Union's team has also improved in the last few years."

The competition will become more challenging after the Union meet, with an invitational at Syracuse in two weeks and at NESCAC foe Williams in three weeks.

There are two home meets this season, one on October 6, and another on November 3.

Hull said, "We will work hard this season and see where it lands us."

Hull continued, "This is a very strong region this year with several of the top teams coming back with full squads. Time will tell." Some of the top teams that Hamilton will face this season are SUNY Geneseo, Ithaca College, St. Lawrence University, and the College of New Jersey.

Improvement Wanted:

Women's Soccer embarks on 2001 campaign

by Charles Spiliotis '03
SPORTS WRITER

The Hamilton women's soccer team, coming off a very strong 10-5-1 season in which it advanced to the second round of the NYSWCAA tournament, will look to get better as it returns 13 players and hopes to build upon the success of last year.

The well-balanced attack of last year's Continentals saw six scorers with eight or more points in Amanda Siepiola '02 (13 points), Paula Dady '03 (ten points), Jessica Beeson '03 (eight points), Anna Arnold '04 (eight points), Julia Guastella '02 (eight points), and Jessica Elliot '02 (eight points).

The biggest loss for the Conts will be defensive leader Roxanne Hoek '03, who played every minute of last season at the sweeper position.

The losses of Hoek and midfielder Liz Hill '03, who are abroad for the semester, will mean that Hamilton needs its eight-member freshmen class to step up and carry some of the load.

Coach Melissa Eging, now in her second season at Hamilton, said, "With Roxanne last year, we were a very possession-oriented team, because we always had her in back to communicate to the whole defense. This year we'll need to step up and work a more attacking style. We'll need some girls to adapt to some new positions and some freshmen to make an impact right away. On offense we'll be playing with a greater urgency to score, forcing plenty of scoring opportunities."

In net, Hamilton will look to senior Brenna Chiaputti to lead once again, with some help from Jen Munoz '04.

In fifteen games last season Chiaputti earned a very solid .69 goals against average and a .877 save percentage.

The schedule for the Conts looks much the same as last season, with fourteen regular-season games and seven in-league contests.

Their season will open against rival SUNY-Brockport, who took a game from Hamilton last season, and then a conference weekend away at RPI and Vassar College.

"We have a lot of new faces and new expectations this season, and we seem to be a very committed group of athletes. For the most part we seem ready to go. The girls came in in better shape than last year, and as long as we can keep people healthy and do a good job of adapting to new situations, we should be very successful," added Eging.

Hamilton will open its scrimmage schedule this weekend, in preparation for the season opener against Brockport coming on September 11.

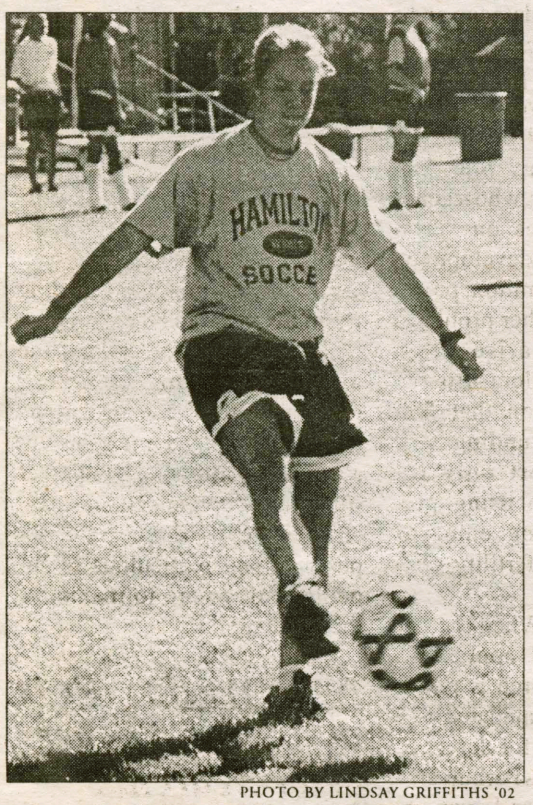


PHOTO BY LINDSAY GRIFFITHS '02

Captain Amanda Siepiola '02 will lead the Continental's attack this year.

Seniors lead Field Hockey's strong start

by Lauren Reynolds '02
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

There is a sign that is hanging in the women's field hockey locker room that reads: "To play the game is great, To win the game is greater, To love the game is greatest."

This year's team will attempt to embody these three statements as they look to improve on last year's discouraging 3-11 season.

Armed with experienced leaders, talented returnees and a group of hard-working first years, Coach Karen Hollands looks to take on some of the country's top teams as well as her alma mater, Ithaca College.

The team has spent much of the preseason in two training sessions per day.

"Preseason was tough in the sense that it was more intense than it has been in past years. The upperclassmen returned in really good shape and proved that they had been working hard in the off-season to improve on last year's record," commented captain Colleen Trzaskos '02.

The team kicked off its schedule with a scrimmage against SUNY Morrisville on Wednesday.

The team was forced to adjust to a slower grass game and come together after only playing together for only a few days.

The Continentals overcame these obstacles to defeat Morrisville, 7-0.

Trzaskos commented, "We were able to make the necessary adjustments in the second half to win the game."

The Continentals are led by captains Trzaskos, Jenny Russell '02 and Christina Freyre '02, all three - year varsity starters and among the best forwards in the UCAA conference.

As a junior, Freyre led the team in goals (7), assists (4) and points (18).

All three have invaluable leadership experience and will be a force in the front field. Returnees Eden Self '04, Amy Mills '04, and Liz Southerland '04 will help the captains keep the pace and intensity needed to be successful against strong programs such as William Smith.

The attack lost only one player to graduation, and the team will be able to rebound from the loss with the addition of the new freshmen.

The midfield is led by returnees Stephanie Metz '04 and Erin Turcot '04.

Though the midfield lacks experience, they will be helped by the hard work of newcomers Ashley Kuemzi '05, Joanna McCann '05, and Elizabeth Conway '05.

Trzaskos praised the play of all of the first years, commenting, "[The freshmen] look great, they are really strong coming in to preseason."

Southerland added, "The freshman are very energetic and are a positive addition to the team. They have really good attitudes and are ready to play."

Ann Hapanowicz '05, Emily Kiernan '03, Heather Pratt '04, and Juliette Senk '05 consitute the backfield.

The defense is helped tremendously by the return of goalkeeper Sarah Baldwin '04, who finished last season with over 1,000 minutes under her belt in fourteen games.

Trzaskos commented, "Baldwin is a great athlete and a great asset to the defense and to the team."

The addition of Penelope Noble '05 will take some of the pressure off of Baldwin and the rest of the defense.

Holland's crusading attitude and "If you don't like it change it" motto will be the driving force as the team looks to achieve its goals of making the state tournament.

The team's greatest opponent this year will be itself.

Overall, the team has talent, experience and enthusiasm and will need to keep up its pace and intensity if it is to be successful this year.

Lonely? Bored?
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Sports

Alvanos speaks out

New coach discusses Hamilton Football's prospects

by Chris Preston '03
MANAGING EDITOR

After the sudden departure of first year head coach Tim Pendergast for the greener, and perhaps more lucrative, pastures of Division I football at Cornell University, Swarthmore coach Pete Alvanos became Hamilton College's third head football coach in as many years.

Having served as Division III Swarthmore College's head coach from 1998-2000, Alvanos knows what it takes to rebuild a college football program.

In three short years he took a Swarthmore program that was severely undermanned and overmatched in the Centennial Conference to a respectable 4-5 record in 2000.

Now Alvanos faces a similar task here on The Hill: revive a football program that has won a grand total of three games over the past three seasons.

Coach Alvanos sat down with The Spectator recently and talked about how he plans to turn things around:

Spectator: Now that you've had a chance to settle in, how smooth has the transition from Swarthmore to Hamilton been?
Alvanos: It's been real smooth, actually. Bringing my offensive and defensive coordinators (Chad Martinovich and John Keady) with me from Swarthmore has made things a lot easier. It helps to have people who know my coaching style and have been with me for several years.

Spec: How would you characterize the team so far based on what you've seen in terms of its strengths, weaknesses, and overall personality?
Alvanos: Our biggest strength has to be our senior class. The fact that there are 20 of them still on the team shows character since they've been through so much adversity, including having three coaches in three years. Their desire to win rubs off on the underclassmen. Our biggest weakness may also be the fact that a lot of these guys have been through such a coaching carousel and had to a new coaching style three years in a row. But, I told the seniors at the beginning of the year that I'm committed to staying at Hamilton College.

Spec: The offense struggled last year. How will Coach Martinovich's newly installed pro-style offense produce better results?
Alvanos: We're going to try and be more conservative and ball oriented. If we get consistent offensive play and our players gain confidence early in the season then we'll have a chance. We do have talent on that side of the ball.....We have good senior leadership on the offensive line with John Clair, Dudley Purbeck and Ed Witchey, guys who have been in the trenches for several years. We have Chris McCarthy ('02) and Tom Bradley ('04) at receiver and two good running backs in Chris Weeden ('02) and Elijah Huling ('04). These guys have talent and experience.

PHOTO BY LINDSAY GRIFFITHS '02

Head Coach Pete Alvanos in action at practice yesterday.

Spec: You have changed the defense from a 4-4 to a 4-3 alignment. How will this improve an already solid defense?
Alvanos: As aggressive as our defense was last year, the loss of Ron Thomas leaves a big void on the defensive line. Since linebacker is our deepest position we've switched Harry Hristoforatos ('02) from his normal linebacker position to the defensive line, and moved outside linebacker Thatcher Freeborn ('02) to strong safety. We want to be more pressure oriented and hope that these moves will enable us to do as much on defense as each player can handle. Since defense is the strength of our team, hopefully this will pay dividends.

Spec: Do you see any differences between the level of play here and at Swarthmore?
Alvanos: Players here are bigger and stronger, and have more ability. It took time at Swarthmore to get our players mentally tough.

Spec: What is your goal for the team this year?
Alvanos: I just want our kids to compete-every down, every minute. If we play 60 minutes full speed, when the whistle blows there's a good chance that the outcome will be in our favor.

Spec: Lastly, what was the deciding factor in convincing you to come to Hamilton?
Alvanos: The number one factor was the institution itself. I was overwhelmed with the nature of the campus and how friendly everyone on campus was. I felt comfortable right away. Also, the strong commitment from the college impressed me in terms of how fast President (Eugene) Tobin and Coach (Tom) Murphy offered me the job. That told me that they thought I was the right guy for the job. In addition, we're playing in a great football conference in the NESCAC...(My staff) has helped build programs at the University of Chicago and Swarthmore, and Hamilton is very similar. I think if we could build there we can build here.

Men's Soccer set to recapture magic

by Josh Sargen '05
SPORTS WRITER

High hopes and great expectations characterize Coach Perry Nizzi's soccer team this upcoming season.

Coming off a phenomenal 2000 campaign, the soccer team returns seven of its eleven starters from a squad that reached the NCAA northeast final.

This talented group of seasoned veterans has also garnered national attention and respect through national coaches' polls, which have them ranked 17th in the country.

Adding to the initial high hopes surrounding the team was a solid first week of practice in which the team remained injury free.

Furthermore, Nizzi was extremely pleased with his players' off-season improvements pointing out, "My returning players have come back stronger than they were at the end of last season."

Fostering the positive attitudes surrounding this upcoming season are numerous strengths that the team possesses.

The midfield is extremely strong this year, returning key contributors such as Craig Li '04, Mike Galante '04, Dave Alchus '04, Mike Thompson '03, and co-captain Nick Wilson '02.

Up front, co-captain Ernesto Kwarteng '02 and the high-scoring Sky Gellatly '03 lead a potent offensive attack.

Co-captain Doug Bellard '02 anchors the team from the net and will be expected to provide solid goalkeeping throughout the year.

The team's greatest strength, however, is its tremendous depth. Unlike various opponents Hamilton faces throughout the year, which have 13 or 14 talented players on their rosters, the Continentals possess 18 gifted players whom Nizzi can play with confidence.

"Our depth is the main reason we got where we were last season," explained Nizzi.

Furthermore, with the conferences' new scheduling policy, which forces teams to play back-to-back weekend games, depth is a tremendous weapon.

Nizzi pointed out, "Soccer matches are not meant to be played on consecutive days and our depth will be a great asset."

Certainly Hamilton will be strong in many areas, but even highly touted teams have question marks.

The most prominent uncertainty facing this year's squad is the defense and how quickly the new grouping will mesh.

Two starters return from last year, including a solid sweeper in Huy Huynh '03.

However, replacing two seniors will be difficult and how quickly each defensive player adapts to their counterparts' styles will be key.

This familiarity can only be developed during games.

Coach Nizzi commented, "If we can replace both seniors we can have a successful season."

Success on the soccer field appears to be likely for this promising group.

Nevertheless, reaching the same round in the tournament that last year's team achieved will be difficult because of the tough schedule the Continentals face this season.

A match against NESCAC rival Middlebury, ranked 15th nationally, is away, followed by another challenging road match against St. Lawrence.

It will certainly be demanding, but success is certainly something Nizzi expects for this upcoming season.

"If we put ourselves in position at the end of the year to win the conference we'll be fine," he commented.

Based on preseason observations and an abundance of depth one has to think the Continentals will be in contention for post-season play come late fall.

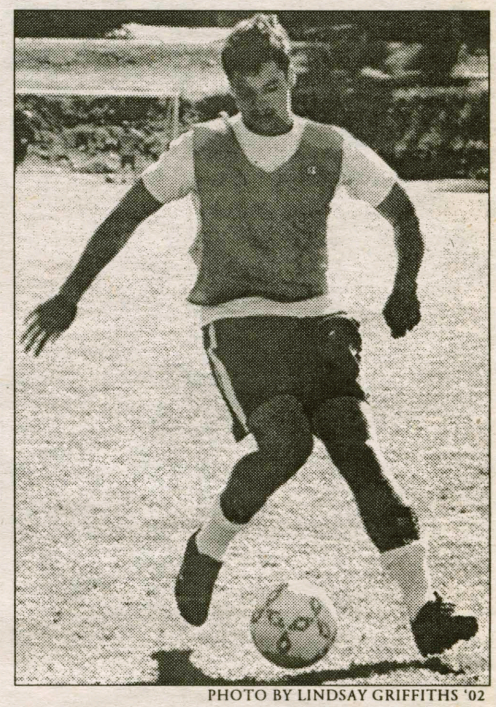

PHOTO BY LINDSAY GRIFFITHS '02

Sky Gellatly '03 shows off his footwork during preseason.